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# The German Tribune

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

Hamburg, 23 October 1977  
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## The burden of coping with terrorism

Ninety minutes before the last ultimatum of the hijackers of the Lufthansa Boeing 737 expired, a special commando unit of the Federal Border Guards stormed the jetliner at Mogadishu Airport in Somalia and freed all 86 hostages aboard the aircraft. In the course of the raid, three of the four hijackers were killed while a woman terrorist was severely wounded. Ten passengers and one border guard sustained slight injuries. Jürgen Schumann, the captain of the aircraft, was killed by the terrorists in Aden. When they learned of the successful raid that freed the hostages the terrorists held in the Stuttgart-Stammheim Prison, Andreas Baader, Gudrun Ensslin and Jan-Carl Raape, committed suicide while Irmgard Möller attempted to do so. They numbered among the eleven prisoners whose release was to be extorted by the kidnapping of Hanns-Martin Schleyer and the hijacking of the Lufthansa jet. Nothing is as yet known about the fate of Hanns-Martin Schleyer.

Due to the fact that — notwithstanding the major crisis staff and other committee meetings in the six weeks since the kidnapping of Hanns-Martin Schleyer — only nine men in Bonn really knew what was going on among those making policy decisions the public (and not only the public) depends entirely on speculation and conjecture.

As Chancellor Helmut Schmidt pointed out in a deliberately matter-of-fact manner, referring to the terrorists simply as "the enemy", the danger that the terrorists might learn too much about the government must stoop to the murderous it through carelessness, connections or indiscretions — was simply too great.

The assumption that the decision-makers in Bonn believed that there were indications that the time set in the ultimatum would pass without the dire consequences threatened in it must therefore remain mere speculation.

As long this assumption stood the slightest chance of proving correct it was pointless to waste this opportunity by releasing the prisoners. But this does not mean that *raison d'état* must enjoy priority, no matter what the conse-

quences. It does also not mean that the government must stop to the murderous level of terrorists when human lives are at stake.

The government can, however, expect understanding for the necessity of weighing all possibilities and for imposing a temporary news blackout or even disseminating false information, thus excluding from its line of thought not only the terrorists but the public as well.

The efforts on the part Herr Schleyer's family to save the kidnap victim's life — be it by paying the asked for ransom of 15 million dollars or be it by recourse to the Constitutional Court, calling for a temporary injunction that would force the government to meet the terrorists' terms — also deserve understanding. It would be utterly unfair to interpret this as an attempt to separate the fate of one of the privileged classes from that of the 87 hostages aboard the Lufthansa plane.

It is still unclear who caused the turning over of the money to fail or why it failed. For the time being, this episode should merely be viewed as confirmation of the fact that the payment of a non-political price has at least been under consideration in the preceding weeks.

Moreover, the application filed in the Constitutional Court by Hanns-Martin Schleyer's son Hanns Eberhard was also a motion to save the lives aboard the Lufthansa jet since the conditions were identical in both cases.

The Constitutional Court had hardly an alternative but to turn down the motion. It would have been virtually

impossible for the Court to lay claim to authority which rests solely with the executive branch of government. The fact that the government and its agencies are burdened with the onus of protecting the individual citizen as well as the nation's citizens as a whole necessitates the government's

ability to react differently in each case of terrorist extortion. If this were not so, the terrorists could in each instance predict the government's reactions, and their risk would become calculable.

The key sentences of the Court's reasons for the ruling read — and rightly so — as follows: "In view of the present constitutional position, the Constitutional Court cannot impose a specific decision on the state and its agencies. It lies in the discretion of the Federal and state governments to decide the measures to which they want to resort in fulfilling their duty to protect lives."

State authority entails political responsibility. And nobody can shift this responsibility to the Constitutional Court. Government's and above all the Chancellor, cannot evade this responsibility.

Respect for the human tragedy which is unfolding — a tragedy which involves not only the terrorists and their hostages — does not mean that, once a decision



Terrorists' last video recording of Hanns-Martin Schleyer

(Photo: dpa)

has been reached, the political leadership will not have to render account. Although the politicians' own life is not at stake, the very knowledge that they bear responsibility for the lives of others imposes a similar burden on them as well.

From a purely human point of view, it would be understandable if this led to fallacious assessments and wrong decisions. But the political responsibility would remain unchanged.

But no-one must overlook the fact that it is the terrorists who have placed all of us — the hostages, their families, the executive branch of government and all segments of the public capable of compassion — in this position. And even now there are some people who fail to take this sufficiently into account.

Emotional outbreaks might be unavoidable ... but our country cannot put up with cynicism at this stage.

Hans Reiser

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 17 October 1977)

## The web of international terrorism

Ever since the early days of terrorism in this country, German terrorist groups have maintained contacts with others of their ilk abroad.

As far back as the early days of the Baader/Meinhof gang, its leadership under Andreas Baader, Ulrike Meinhof and Gudrun Ensslin made it clear that international cooperation was the only chance of survival for German terrorists.

They stated that it was necessary to make consistent use of the plurality of the various states where the combating of terrorism is concerned.

Contacts with Palestinian terrorist groups, which were considered invulnerable as a result of the sympathy they enjoyed with some Arab states, were deemed of paramount importance.

Baader and members of his gang established initial contacts as far back as 1970 while undergoing terrorism training in a Palestinian camp.

But this first encounter ended in a fiasco for the Germans. The Palestinians

accused them of being loudmouths and cowards.

It was not until the series of bombings in the Federal Republic of Germany in 1972 that the Baader/Meinhof people gained some standing again.

The actual phase of cooperation began in 1975. In March of that year, members of the so-called "Movement Second of June" took the Berlin CDU chairman Peter Lorenz hostage. Bonn went along with their demands and released five terrorists from prison (in exchange for the life of Lorenz). They found a haven in South Yemen.

In a training camp of the Palestinian PFLP movement, headed by George Habash, where the German terrorists were drilled in aircraft hijacking and other acts of terror together with members of Japan's "Red Army", they met the former Baader lawyer Siegfried Haag. He had made it his task to reorganise the German terrorists following their dispersion in the wake of several police successes.

In December 1975, two Germans (Gabriele Kröcher-Tiedemann, who had been exchanged for Lorenz, and Hans Joachim Klein) took part in the hostage-taking of 11 Opec oil ministers who had been conferring in Vienna. That action was led by "Carlos".

In June 1976, Wilfried Böse, enlisted by Carlos, headed the groups that hijacked an Air France jet to Uganda.

Among the 40 terrorists whose release the hijackers demanded were six Germans.

But all this demonstrates only a fraction of the established meshing of international terrorism. This country's terrorists also maintain good links with France and Italy.

Thus, for instance, they induced French terrorists in 1975 to plant bombs at the Paris agencies of Daimler-Benz and the Springer publishing concern as well as in Bonn's Consulate in Nice.

The woman terrorist Astrid Pohl, who was released from prison for health reasons and, immediately went underground, is likely to be convalescing on an estate belonging to the Italian "Red Brigades".

Horst Zimmermann  
(Münchner Merkur, 18 October 1977)

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FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Spirit of Helsinki goes its own way in Belgrade

There can be no denying that the CSCE Follow-up Conference in Belgrade has demonstrated psychological circumspection on the part of the delegates.

The delicacy with which the 35 participating nations have been steering the Conference towards its central issues shows that they are fully aware of what is desirable and what is feasible.

Following the week of public sessions with its 34 sterile and, on occasion, outright boring speeches came the week behind closed doors - the catch-as-catch-can round before the specialised work groups got down to brass tacks and negotiating specific issues.

Europe, it would seem, need not bundle up against a new cold war. Even though the two years since the Helsinki Summit have seen phases in which detente seemed in jeopardy, it can be taken as certain since the beginning of the Belgrade Conference that a policy of detente will continue.

But this policy has acquired a new dimension, having rid itself of the pretentious slogans which characterised it prior to Helsinki.

This change is attributable to the Helsinki Final Act. Although in many instances the Act is no more than a collection of truisms of international law which are in no way binding, it is now up to the policy-makers of detente to put generalities into concrete terms.

Pressure exerted by the expectations expressed in public opinion and in the political corridors of power makes it impossible for participants to rest their case on the legally unbinding character of the Final Act. In de facto terms, the Act is about to achieve the status of a European Constitution. It is indicative that the Soviets at the Belgrade Conference are attempting to bypass the Final Act.

In the catch-as-catch-can round, during which everybody could raise any topic he liked, the Soviet delegate Voronov pooh-poohed the human rights issue, referring to it as a "secondary problem." In a 40-minute speech, he explained what, in his view, should enjoy priority, namely the nuclear arms race which, if abolished, could instantly lift the spectre of a holocaust. But there is no-one in Belgrade with whom this issue could be discussed.

Equally unavailing was the effort to find a positive response to the proposal of a moratorium on alliances. The Nato countries as well as the non-aligned nations pointed out that this would be contrary to the Final Act which provides that every state is free to join or to resign from alliances.

It is part of the Kremlin's flexibility to insist on raising this issue while its partners in the Warsaw Pact lent it support to varying degrees - Poland, for instance, referred to the matter only in the form of a few generalities. So far, no harsh words have been addressed to the West. In fact, Hungary went furthest in its criticism by raising the issue of visas granted by Western countries.

But there was also not a trace of self-criticism as expressed by a few self-assured Western delegates who voluntarily bared their weak points... in the case of the Federal Republic of Germany the unemployment situation, and in

the case of the United States the race relations problem.

The Soviet Union's raising of issues which this Conference is unable to deal with due to the delegates' lack of authority and that country's seeking refuge in vague but mellifluous political avowals of detente, its reticence to be confronted with the human rights issue, can only be attributed to Moscow's determination to get through Belgrade as unscathed as possible.

Soviet observers openly admit that the present international climate is not conducive to Soviet objectives. But their hope that there might be better days in the offing could well prove just as illusory as the hopes they had placed in the Helsinki Summit. This is due to the fact that the Western and non-aligned nations are devoting all their efforts to inducing the East Bloc to abide by the provisions of the Final Act.

All of a sudden, they seem to be fascinated by the Soviet Union's old idea - although this has not been mentioned again since 1975 - to institutionalise the CSCE.

At the Preparatory Conference it was agreed that the main Follow-up Conference must not close without fixing date and venue for the next meeting. In fact, first applicants wanting to provide the venue - namely Spain and Rumania - have already put out their feelers.

Plans have already been drafted aimed at forming special committees for individual issues for the time after the Belgrade Conference.

It is obviously too much to expect of a conference like that of Belgrade that it should be both a control authority and a motivating force.

In view of the great number of issues involved, it already seems unlikely that the Conference can close by Christmas. There is every likelihood that it will extend into February or March - and this

Genscher defines Bonn's Far East policy

On the second day of his talks in Tokyo, Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, following an invitation by the German Chamber of Commerce in that city, availed himself of this opportunity to define publicly for the first time the aims and principles of Bonn's Far East policy.

According to Herr Genscher, relations between the Federal Republic of Germany and Asia are governed by the following five guiding principles: Preservation of stability and peace; promotion of the principles of independence and self-determination; securing of political balance of power in the region; and the preservation and expansion of trade relations with all Asian countries.

Speaking with a remarkable degree of frankness, which met with considerable interest in both Tokyo and Peking, Herr Genscher condemned all hegemonic aspirations in Asia of the major powers, saying: "The era in which an international order was sought by supremacy on the one hand and subjugation on the other must become a thing of the past... The old-style major power policy, in other words, the policy of domi-



Human rights locked out

(Cartoon: Luis Murschetz/Dpa)

does not even take into account delays for political reasons.

The areas in which such committees staffed by experts will become necessary to fulfil its appointment as the host country for a European Arbitration Committee which would deal with the Cyprus conflict and border incidents (such as the killing by GDR border guards of the Italian lorry driver Corghi) on an ad hoc basis next autumn. The Soviet Union has already let it be known that it would not recognise rulings of the Arbitration Committee as binding.

It is also Switzerland which would like to have problems relating to exchange of information and to journalists in Eastern Europe dealt with by a committee.

The Federal Republic of Germany intends to summon a forum of scientists next year which in turn could summon a gigantic text-book conference in order to do away with prejudices resulting from educational methods.

Austria envisages a committee that would deal with economic disputes. The fact that the East Bloc nations seem to attribute little importance to issues relating to economic cooperation has brought about a certain feeling of

uncertainty. Although the Soviet delegate Voronov expressed satisfaction about increased trade since there seem to be no new impulses coming due to the awareness of its own country's capacity.

The European Economic Community and Unesco want to place their initiative apparatus at the participants' disposal, which would benefit European proposals for a European environment and energy policy. It can already be taken for granted that the Soviets demand their price for their approval of such plans.

Initially, activities at the Conference might be directed against the Soviet Union which is to be prevented in the future from shunting manoeuvres elsewhere into areas far removed from where the action is. The same applies to the East Bloc method of splitting up manoeuvres into several small ones, thus evading the obligation to report the war games. This also applies to movements - a matter of considerable concern to countries like Yugoslavia, Rumania or, indeed, Norway to which such movements impart a feeling of discomfort.

The non-Communist states will hardly get around accepting the Soviet proposal to forgo the first nuclear strike. A Dutch delegate indicated the rough direction, seconded by a Pole and a Swiss. He said: "This should apply not only to the first nuclear strike but to any first strike whatsoever."

A non-aggression treaty of the 35 European nations could thus take shape... and this would not be the only instance in which the spirit of Helsinki unexpectedly goes its own way.

Eduard Neumann (Die Zeit, 14 October 1977)

The German Tribune advertisement containing publication details, contact information, and subscription rates.

HOME AFFAIRS

The difficult business of governing

It has not been easy, over the past few weeks, to regard the actions of professional politicians in Bonn with the cold detachment of an entomologist. Many observers have had the feeling that these politicians, whatever they do or fail to do, are part of a fateful process. There are moments, too, when it is evident that the politicians themselves have this feeling.

This process cannot be precisely defined; it is difficult to foresee what direction it will take or to predict how it will end. One senses however that it is a process of transformation which is being imposed on this Republic more by the force of circumstances than by the will of the government. We remember the words of Richard Wagner's Siegfried: "The Norns weave in the force of the world, there is nothing they can change or wend."

Oswald Spengler, author of "The Decline of the West" put this Nordic-sounding quotation on the title-page of one of his problematic interpretations of history. Its title: "Years of Decision." This was in 1933, at the end of the Weimar Republic.

The situation then cannot be compared with that of today. But the Wagner quotation remains as relevant as ever. Everyone in Bonn is pressing for a decision to be made. Hanns-Martin Schleyer, who has been in the hands of his kidnappers for over five weeks, appealed five times in his letter for the government to make a decision.

Frau Schleyer obviously thought she

could give her husband the assurance, via Bildzeitung, "that the time will soon come for a positive decision." However, the so-called crisis staff which met to discuss the latest position, adjourned without having made a decision - as we heard, despite the continuing news blackout.

Is this not typical of Bonn? Are there not all kinds of long overdue decisions which still have not been made? What about the tax relief which would stimulate investment and consumption, and which unions and industry have been demanding for some time? What about the unemployment problem? How long must young people wait for solutions to the educational and employment problem? Why is there no all-party consensus on the energy question? Are the men in Bonn just muddling through and postponing decisions? Is the republic sinking in a slough of incompetence?

It is one of the symptoms of the present crisis that many Bonn politicians and journalists who are asking themselves these questions do not really know if these are questions that are worrying the citizens of this country or whether they are not figments of their own imagination brought about by enforced confrontation on one hand and exaggerated Coalition fears of on the other.

Those who listened to the speeches of opposition leaders Franz Josef Strauss and Helmut Kohl in the recent debate on the 1978 budget must have gained the impression that this country is heading straight for the abyss, thanks to marxist revolutionaries and all kinds of manipulation.

The question was asked - and rightly - whether opposition and Coalition were talking about the same country. But this is inevitable when one starts an autumn manoeuvre, as Herr Kohl did, before the troops are armed or prepared to do battle... and before the generals have reached agreement among themselves.

The opposition's offensive was comparatively harmless. Not so the beha-

Continued from page 2

pared with 75 per cent where the OECD countries are concerned.

With regard to his forthcoming talks with the Chinese leadership in Peking, Herr Genscher said that it was his aim to extend and intensify Sino-German relations, pointing out that "we appreciate the People's Republic of China's constructive role in world politics."

He pointed out that there was no conflict of interests if the Federal Republic of Germany at the same time sought good relations with the Soviet Union. This, he said, was a matter of importance for Bonn within the framework of the process of detente in Europe. Before leaving Tokyo, Herr Genscher laid the cornerstone for a new type of German Cultural Centre in Tokyo which is being built as a joint project of the Federal Government and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Natur- und Völkerkunde Ostasiens, OAG (German Society for East Asian Ethnology and Natural History).

The OAG (a private German organisation which has been in existence for more than 100 years) has provided the site while the Federal Government will bear the DM10 million cost for the multi-storey building.

Apart from the OAG, the new structure will also house the Goethe Institute, the German Academic Exchange Service and as many other German institutions as possible. A comprehensive library, which will include historical literature, is to be placed at the disposal of German and Japanese researchers.

Gebhard Hielsch (Süddeutsche Zeitung, 12 October 1977)

Lambsdorff chides industry on codetermination issue

industry on codetermination issue

In a recent speech to the 11th Accountants' Congress in Munich - his first since taking office - Graf Lambsdorff underlined his commitment to the free market economy, to co-determination, and to a responsible wages policy.

There was a hint of criticism in his treatment of the employers' recent motion at the Federal Constitutional Court concerning the constitutionality of co-determination, but he also warned the unions not to try to force through maximal wage demands.

He said that there were no "purely formal" objections to the employers' recourse to the Constitutional Court on the question of co-determination, but he added that he believed the motion to be "superfluous, and a tactically as well as psychologically ill-advised" attempt to impede a law which the entire Bundestag had passed.

Graf Lambsdorff offered his services as a mediator in the attempt to bring the DGB (Federation of German Trade Unions) back into the Concerted Action.

The government's overall orientation data did not mean that the government wanted to see equal wage increases in all branches of industry. Graf Lambsdorff pointed out that it was quite normal for wage rises to be higher in some branches than in others. He warned against the theory that the state could step in and remedy the problems caused by wrong wages policies. He agreed with the metal workers' demand for active wages policies, though he pointed out that this could not mean "pushing through maximal wage demands without considering what effect they would have on the economy as a whole." He believed it was incorrect to talk of a choice between an employers' state and a union state.

The minister conceded that the level of economic growth was "considerably below expectations." This was a world wide problem. He said there were no grounds for undue pessimism or for euphoria. He saw the following major dangers: an increase in the rate of inflation, greater tendencies towards protectionism and wage increases leading to a cost level "at which not enough people could find employment."

Peter Gillies (Die Welt, 12 October 1977)

Cabinet condemns anti-Semitic incident involving officers

The Cabinet has decided that there is no place in the Bundeswehr for Munich Bundeswehr University officers who were recently involved in anti-semitic incidents. (The eleven young officers set fire to pieces of cardboard with the words "There goes another Jew.")

The Cabinet was unanimous in this opinion which, according to government spokesman Armin Grünewald, it reached after discussion of the incidents.

Defence Minister Georg Leber will receive a report on the incidents from the deputy General Inspector of the Bundeswehr.

Herr Grünewald pointed out that the Cabinet's statement was not intended to prejudice the outcome of any disciplinary measures against the officers. This was a matter for the Minister of Defence alone.

(Nordwest-Zeitung, 13 October 1977)



Chancellor in straits (Cartoon: Hans/Deutsche Zeitung)





## MARINE BIOLOGY

# Hamburg research vessel explores Antarctic protein reservoir

Conditions for marine creatures in the Antarctic regions of the Atlantic below 50° southern latitude can only be termed paradisaical.

In the stretch of ocean between Cape Horn and the Cape of Good Hope, with its easterly winds known by mariners as the Roaring Forties and its cold current, lies one of the world's largest and still unexploited protein reserves formed by little shrimp, two to five centimetres in size, which marine biologists call "krill."

In view of the depletion of our fish resources the krill represents a treasure which must be utilised with great care.

The Federal Republic of Germany's fishing industry will be in the vanguard of this enterprise.

Following an initial and very successful voyage in the winter of 1975/76 (the Antarctic summer) a second Antarctic expedition weighed anchors in Hamburg recently.

Twenty-eight marine biologists aboard the research vessel *Walther Herwig*, which belongs to the Federal Research Institute for Fisheries, and the chartered factory ship *Julius Fock* will explore the potential of krill fishing during their 45,000-mile voyage.

Initial experiments aimed at making use of the krill as food and above all as a substitute for fishmeal as animal feed were encouraging and indicated that the commercial exploitation of the krill is feasible.

A krill paste which has been produced experimentally could well prove the basis for foodstuffs similar to fishfingers, fishburgers, etc.

Tasting trials were successful and members of the Bonn ministries which foot the bill (Science and Technology and the Food Ministry) were full of praise about the range of dishes such as "Krill Crème a la Albatross" or "Krill Soup a la Antarctic".

Other processing experiments with special shelling machines and boiling installations are to help extend the range of krill products during the present voyage.

Should there really be a marketable range of krill products in the offing, it would seem that Germany's catching

technology will prove superior to that of other competitors — above all the

USSR and Japan. During the last voyage, specially designed German trawls achieved average catches of between eight and twelve tons per hour, and in many instances this figure reached the 60-ton mark. On one occasion the crew managed to haul in 35 tons within eight minutes. Nets and

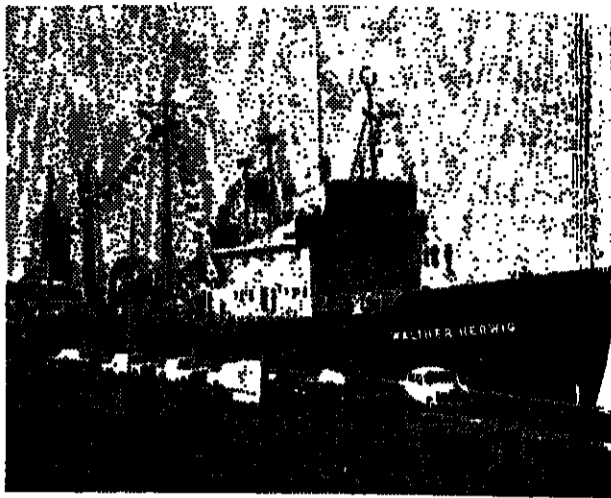
echo sounders for fishfinding purposes are to be improved still further. In view of these successes it can now already be taken for granted that the global fish yield will increase from the present 65 million tons per annum to twice that figure without endangering the species. In other words, these little animals with the mellifluous scientific name *euphausia superba* are likely to make for superlatives in the fishing industry.

By 1971 global fish catches had developed explosively, reaching catch figures of up to 70 million tons per annum. But then the unbridled expansion of the fishing fleets backfired — especially in view of the fact that internationally agreed upon catch quotas went unheeded. The fishmeal industry's use of non-edible fish led to a collapse of our classical fish reserves. The present total ban on herring fishing in the North Sea is the first drastic consequence of such exploitation.

Marine biologists are still not quite certain as to how to assess the krill as a provider of protein. But it is reasonably certain that total production could amount to a minimum of 200 million tons per annum. Less conservative estimates speak of between 800 and 5,000 million tons.

But caution is called for. As promising as such catch figures might seem with a view to coping with future food

Research vessel *Walther Herwig*



(Photo: b)

shortages and considering the 200-22 economic limit at sea and the 60% protein crisis, we must bear in mind that the original sin in the Antarctic already been committed. The blessing of today is the result of former overfishing.

It is generally assumed that until the twenties the various types of whale consumed up to 150 million tons of krill per annum. But after decades of wanton slaughter, the whale population has dropped by 85 per cent. Of the former 43 million tons of whale, all that remains is 7 million tons.

But whether or not this means that we now have an excess of 150 million tons of krill that can be fished without danger to the ecological system remains to be seen. Latest studies point out that other fish in the Antarctic ecological system have now taken the place of the whale as feed on krill.

Krill provides the main food for sea penguins, squid and demersal fish.

Many penguin colonies have grown in size during the past few years and are feeding on krill are developing faster as a result of the enormous food supply, becoming of reproductive age at a much earlier stage than in previous years.

Marine biologists therefore specifically warn against overfishing krill supplies. The next few years are to be devoted primarily to gathering exact biological data which will then serve as a basis for internationally binding catch quotas.

If we were to proceed in this manner, the little krill could actually solve the present crisis in the fishing industry.

Restraint in catches could secure the supply for a long time to come while at the same time providing fish species in northern waters with a chance to regenerate.

Such warnings seem to apply to Antarctic waters in general as well. The Soviet Union's distant waters fishing industry has already succeeded in making certain species of fish virtually non-existent.

Should the present — and possible future — expeditions prove the commercial viability of krill fishing, an operational basis for such a fishing industry has already been decided upon, namely Grytviken, a former Norwegian whaling post in South Georgia and today a ghost town.

Harro H. Müller  
(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt  
9 October 1976)

## Oyster farming in North Sea shallows

Oyster farming along the North Sea coast of the Federal Republic of Germany has been resumed after a break of more than 50 years. This is done by means of eight 3.5 cubic metre containers which are moored in the shallows and each of which contains up to 100,000 oyster seedlings or between 2,500 and 3,000 mature oysters in 100 perforated plastic boxes. The mollusks feed on plankton and reach marketable size of between 50 and 100 grammes within two to three years.

(Photo: dpa)



**Gittorna**

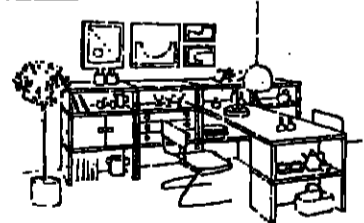
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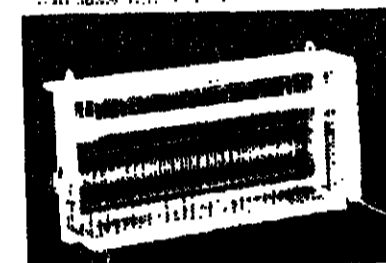
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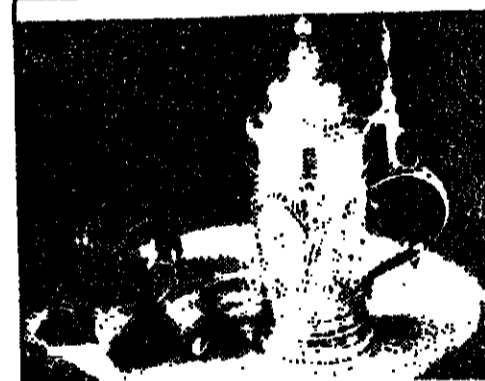
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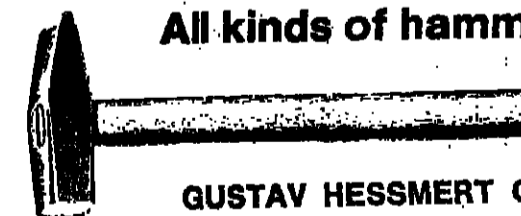
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## PSYCHIATRY

# Berlin congress stresses role of video tapes in psychiatry

Psychiatrists are frequently accused of operation by rule of thumb in diagnosing and treating psychiatric cases since — as opposed to physical medicine — psychiatry does not deal with complaints that are subject to specific laws of nature.

But this state of affairs is soon to change. More and more psychiatric clinics at home and abroad have latterly arrived at the realisation that the TV camera can be of as much service to psychiatry as the X-ray is to conventional medicine.

Some 70 psychiatrists from the Federal Republic of Germany, Austria and Switzerland recently met in Berlin for a three-day exchange of views and experiences concerning the possibility of recording talks between patient and doctor on video tape.

They unanimously arrived at the conclusion that video technology enriches and lends objectivity to the psychiatrist's work, thus contributing towards more effective treatment.

An International Work Group for Audiovision in Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, which was established at the Berlin congress is to seek contacts with psychiatric clinics in Britain, Japan and the United States — countries which have for some years successfully made use of video recordings.

Moreover, the Work Group will attempt to promote a certain degree of uniformity in such recordings in order to enable clinics to exchange or borrow tapes. The Work Group, incidentally, will be chaired by one of the pioneers of video technology in psychiatry, Dr Ernst Renfordt of the Psychiatric Clinic of Berlin's Free University.

Dr Helmut Busch of the same clinic read a paper on the manifold applications of TV in psychiatry. He pointed out that, in arriving at his diagnosis, the doctor no longer depends on the fleeting impression gained from his initial talk with the patient. Instead, he can look at the recording of this initial encounter as often as he likes. The gestures, moments of hesitation while speaking, expressions of embarrassment or fiddling with rings, buttons or braces provide him with additional information concerning the patient's ailment and its severity.

In order to be on the safe side, the psychiatrist can replay the tape to his colleagues for consultation purposes.

But quite apart from the patient, the doctor will also be able to assess his own attitude by replaying the tape. He can see where he has gone wrong and thus avoid making similar mistakes in the future.

The video recording of psychological phenomena also provides the possibility of arriving at a uniform description of symptoms regardless of the particular school of psychiatry to which the individual doctor might belong. It should thus be possible to prevent situations whereby one psychiatrist diagnoses a patient as a neurotic while another diagnoses the same case as paranoia.

According to Dr Busch, such tapes also prevent doctors from making mistakes as to the success or otherwise of



By recording doctor-patient talks it becomes possible to permit other psychiatrists to assess therapy successes on the basis of ten, twenty or thirty sessions.

This also makes it possible to more accurately evaluate the effectiveness of old and new drugs against depression.

Video recordings of a series of talks before, during and after therapy can be played back to a large circle of psychiatrists without sticking to the actual sequence of these talks. This enables them to assess each individual phase and arrive at a conclusion concerning the severity of an illness and the degree of success achieved in the therapy. The subsequent evaluation provides an insight into the effectiveness of the drugs used.

Dr Busch furthermore stressed that video technology can prove invaluable for students of psychiatry and for the further training of specialists.

Typical symptoms of specific psychological disorders for which actual cases are not always available can thus be presented to students in a lecture hall.

In his paper, Dr Busch in no way ignored the dangers and limits of video technology in psychiatric diagnostics. According to him, the danger lies in the loss of immediacy in the personal contact with the patient and in the impossibility of asking a tape questions.

He also pointed out that the close-up of a patient on the screen has an entirely different effect than that of an immediate contact with a patient... and this can on occasion lead to fallacious conclusions.

Video technology must also not be overestimated when it is used to demonstrate to a patient how he behaves — as for instance in behavioural therapy.

Dr Renate Gebhardt pointed out that the originally hoped for revolution in the treatment of children with behavioural defects and of adults ranging from alcoholics to neurotics has not materialised.

In her experience, the confrontation with one's own behaviour is only meaningful if it takes place repeatedly in the course of an extended therapy and when the treating doctor is present.

If, on the other hand, the patient is left to his own devices while viewing his behaviour on the screen, he might be subjected to severe anxieties with the attendant accelerated heartbeat and sweat-

ing, the effects of which are only but beneficial.

But a video demonstration given by the neurology clinics of Dr Schuder showed how patients can benefit from replays of video tapes.

Patients having difficulties in concentrating and remembering things are lectured to a cleverly prepared audio-visual training which in the end re-establishes their faith in their own mental ability.

Socalled "courage inducing" programmes in which partially mad people demonstrate to their fellow patients how they gradually learned to live with their affliction without outside help proved beneficial to others.

Video technology might even help to allay widespread fears and prejudices according to which psychiatric cases are dangerous, unpredictable and aggressive thus helping the patients to integrate into society.

Dr Wolfram Bender of Munich University's Psychiatric Clinic reported an experiment in which laymen confronted with TV recordings of psychiatric cases suffering from schizophrenia, manias, depressions and psychotonia, the evaluation of which showed that their assessment of the individual cases was not greatly at variance with that of professional psychiatrists.

In any event, in this direct confrontation with the mentally and emotionally disturbed there was no longer any evidence of such prejudices as "nutts" or "lunatics".

Dieter Diehl  
(Der Tagespiegel, 8 October 1977)

## Experts call for prophylactic psychiatry

The care for the mentally ill and handicapped in the Federal Republic of Germany is sorely in need of improvement.

This is the opening sentence of the "Report on the Position of Psychiatry in the Federal Republic of Germany" — a study prepared by a committee of experts and presented to the Bonn Government on 25 November 1975.

What has been done in this sector since then? Has the 426-page study (with its 1,192-page annexure) succeeded in bringing about improvements in the intervening two years?

These are the questions dealt with recently by the Protestant Academy in Hofgeismar.

The interest in this event was such that it was impossible to accommodate all those who wanted to attend. But a look at the list of participants shows that of the 117 persons who attended, some 30 per cent were members of the medical profession and of related fields such as nurses, psychologists and social workers. The rest of the participants was made up of representatives of foundations which bear the cost of various institutions.

The politicians who had been invited failed to show up, and there was only a scattering of interested laymen.

Does all this indicate that, following the publication of the study, the problems of mental health have reached the awareness stage in the Federal Republic of Germany at least ten years too late and that the study has failed to accel-

erate the necessary changes? Professor Caspar Kulenkampff, who headed the committee of experts, saw the situation in a different light.

He pointed out that, following the pessimistic experiences at the beginning of the study and the anything but encouraging disagreement on major issues in psychiatry as well as considerable teething troubles, discussion on this subject has become politically relevant and there is public awareness of the need for it — although the Bundestag has so far failed to engage in a debate on the issue.

Professor Kulenkampff also said that considerable investments had been made in this field. In fact, he pointed out, there was a virtually explosive develop-



ment in the right direction concerning the establishment and expansion of the care of the mentally ill and the emotionally disturbed who do not require hospitalisation.

As important as such institutions might be (patients' clubs, workshops for the mentally handicapped, etc.) and as seriously as they might be taken by the participants in the congress, they nevertheless harboured certain disadvantages and perhaps even dangers.

There is, for instance, the geriatric patient who suffers from senility and is transferred from a clinic to a home with the result that the national health system

relatives have to foot the bill. The same applies in the case of alcoholics who are treated as outpatients, thus having to live in their accustomed environment with the temptations this entails. Alcoholics frequently require a "dry" milieu.

A hitherto much ignored aspect received special attention at the Hofgeismar congress, namely the possibility of prophylactic psychiatry. This subject was dealt with at length by Dr Horst Dilling of the Munich University Psychiatric Clinic and by Professor Manfred Müller-Köppers of the Heidelberg University Clinic.

According to these two speakers, the field of psychiatry, which is still in its infancy, by far exceeds the scope of conventional psychiatry.

Prophylactic work in the psychiatric sector must begin prenatally by counselling parents-to-be; it should also include preventive measures through the early diagnosis of potential disorders and cooperation with teachers.

Particular attention must be paid to high-risk groups — adolescents in those aged between 65 and 75 who present the largest group of psychiatric cases — as well as to social risk groups.

Prevention must begin in the sphere of work, city planning and housing. It is important to do away with prejudices and to make the public aware of the necessity of prophylactic measures.

Says Dr Dilling: "Without a general understanding of these problems, it might frequently prove impossible to produce the required legislative measures and to provide the necessary means."

As the 1975 study puts it: "We only have the prophylaxis that we have to hand."

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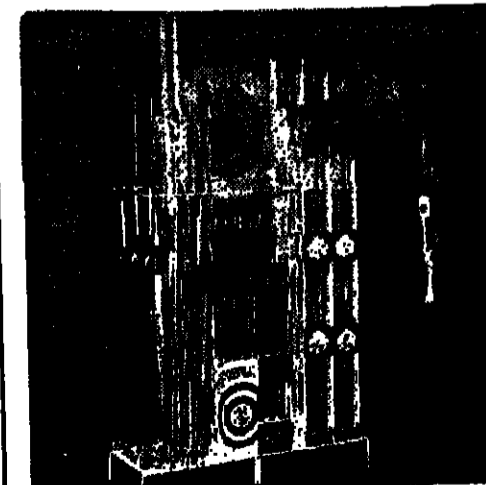
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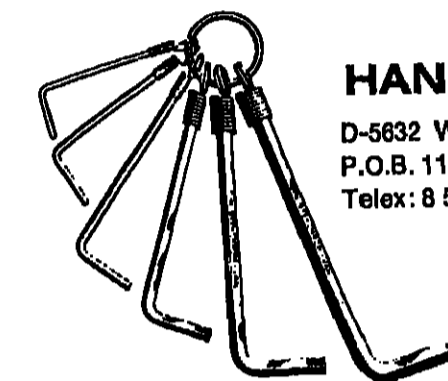
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